

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 13, and 14 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-351786 to Maeda (hereinafter “the ‘786 reference”) in view of JP 06-348628 to Yamaguchi (hereinafter “the ‘628 reference”) in view of JP 11-163924 to Tanaka (hereinafter “the ‘924 reference”); and Claims 5-7, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘786 reference in view of the ‘628 reference and the ‘924 reference, further in view of JP 2002-208960 to Masui (hereinafter “the ‘960 reference”).

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an address notification device comprising:

a link information list storage part for storing a link information list composed of plural entries of link information each including an address of the address notification device, an address of a communicating party, and process information about a process to be applied to communication information to be communicated between said address of the address notification device and said communicating party address;

a link information select part for selecting, among the plural entries of link information in said link information list, link information to be changed;

a change information registration part for modifying change information representing the content of the change to the selected link information;

a link change information sending part for sending link change information representing a change of the selected link information to a destination indicated by said communicating party address contained in the selected link information modified with said change information; and

a link information change part for changing the selected link information on the basis of said change information added thereto in response to response information sent from said communicating party in response to the sending thereto of said link change information.

The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter. See Figure 5A and pages 13 and 14 of the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 has been rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action asserts that the '786 reference discloses everything in Claim 1 with the exception of the selected link information containing the address of the transmitting party, and that the transmitting party will only update its own database when a successful update response is received, and relies on the '628 and '924 references to remedy those deficiencies.

The '786 reference is directed to a method of updating an address book containing vCard files and a transmission history of the vCard files, wherein when information on an arbitrary party in the address book is updated, a correspondingly updated vCard file is automatically sent, with reference to the stored transmission history data, to all other parties to which previous information on said arbitrary party has been sent. A determination of whether an updated vCard has been sent to a party is made based on an update time with reference to the data of the transmission history.

However, although the Office Action states that the '786 reference teaches a system that stores link information, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited address book using vCard files does not disclose storing a link information list composed of plural entries of link information each including an address of the address notification device, an address of a communicating party, and process information about a process to be applied to

communication information to be communicated between said address of the address notification device and said communicating party address, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Further, the Office Action asserts that the '786 reference teaches a system that can transmit the information to be changed, however, the destinations to which the change information is sent are predetermined by the vCard file transmission history, not by selected link change information. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the '786 reference does not disclose sending link change information representing a change of the selected link information to a destination indicated by said communicating party address contained in the selected link information modified with said change information, as recited in amended Claim 1.

The '628 reference is directed to a service management system capable of synchronous update of a duplex database, wherein a service management system temporarily updates a master database and sends an update request to real-time databases at service control points, and after having received a response indicating update-completion from each of the service control points, the service management system updates the master database.

However, the '628 reference does not disclose that the contents of the update data for the service management system are link change information. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the '628 reference fails to disclose storing a link information list composed of plural entries of link information each including an address of the address notification device, an address of a communicating party, and process information about a process to be applied to communication information to be communicated between said address of the address notification device and said communicating party address, as recited in amended Claim 1.

The '924 reference is directed to a mail system which indicates change in a party's address to a counter party so that the counter party can update its address management table, wherein a transmission message (including transmission address) is sent together with a

keyword indicating change in address and the address before change and, in response to detection of the keyword, the counter party extracts the address before change and searches the address management table and updates the address before change with the transmission address.

The Office Action states that a motivation to combine the '924 reference with the '786 reference is so the receiving party can verify that the information to be changed was intended for them before making the changes to their own database.

M.P.E.P. § 2143 B (Simple Substitution of One Known Element for Another To Obtain Predictable Results) is one example of a rationale for obviousness that seems the most analogous to the Office's present 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection. This rationale requires a finding on the part of the examiner that the prior art includes:

- (1) a finding that the prior art contained a device (method, product, etc.) which differed from the claimed device by the substitution of some components (step, element, etc.) with other components;
- (2) a finding that the substituted components and their functions were known in the art;
- (3) a finding that one of ordinary skill in the art could have substituted one known element for another, and the results of the substitution would have been predictable; and
- (4) whatever additional findings based on the *Graham* factual inquiries may be necessary, in view of the facts of the case under consideration, to explain a conclusion of obviousness.

However, the vCard files being transmitted between the receiving party and the transmitting party in the '786 reference need only contain information regarding the party whose address information has changed and the address of each party with whom the changed party has communicated since a previous update. Thus, the modification of the '786 system based on the '924 reference, as suggested by the Office Action, requires both a modification of the vCard files and a verification step requiring two-way communication between the receiving party and the transmitting party, which is unnecessary in the '786 reference.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '924 reference fails to disclose storing a link information list composed of plural entries of link information each including an address of the address notification device, an address of a communicating party, and process information about a process to be applied to communication information to be communicated between said address of the address notification device and said communicating party address, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '786, '628, and '924 references are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest the link information list recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 patentably defines over any proper combination of the '786, '628 and '924 references.

Independent Claim 8 recites limitations analogous to the limitations of Claim 1 and has been amended in a manner analogous to the amendments to Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated with respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 8 has been rendered moot by the present amendment.

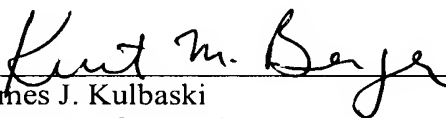
Regarding the rejection of 5-7, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully submit that the '960 reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of the '786, '628 and '924 references, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of dependent Claims 5-7, 13, and 14 are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 1 and 8.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 8 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kurt M. Berger", is written over a horizontal line.

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